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Opening the Door to 300 Repository Participants

If just 20 minutes of your time could open the door to 300 *new* Repository participants, would you be on board?

The development team has put together an aggressive fundraising strategy for 2009 because, for the first time, we've had to limit enrollment at our Repository sites. While we're thrilled that enrollment is in high demand, we need **more funding** to accommodate everyone. This is where your 20 minutes come in!

The cost to enroll each person at a Repository site is \$1,500. Our goal is to team up with at least 200 of our supporters (that means *you*) to raise \$450,000 with the 2009 Letter Writing Campaign. Hitting this goal will cover the cost of enrolling 300 participants, which will bring us closer to our goal of enrollment at our repository sites. A letter writing campaign is the quickest and easiest way for you to help us raise the funds needed to open that door!

Can your letter writing campaign really make a difference? Yes! Every dollar goes a long way. An amount as small as \$1,500 can pay for the enrollment of one Repository participant. One participant's blood sample and data can be used in perhaps hundreds, yes **hundreds**, of studies! Just think of how much new information and data we could collect from 300 new participants. Amazing, right?

Not sure if you have the time to do a letter writing campaign? Don't know

what to write? No worries! We supply you with a letter template highlighting Accelerated Cure Project's mission, programs, and work. All you need to do is add your personal story and/or why you support our mission. That might take you less than 20 minutes!



"My letter reached the hearts of others, whose generosity resulted in over \$2000. It was an easy and rewarding process. Friends and family want to help - your letter opens the door." —Patricia Phelps

Hesitant to ask for support because of the economy? Think of it this way: you're simply giving your friends and family the *opportunity* to support an important and efficient mission. If they can't give right now, that's OK, but if they can, every dollar gets us closer to the cure!

Don't have time to mail the letters? We'll do everything! Once you email us your mailing list, we print the letters, create address

labels, stuff the envelopes, and mail them out. We even pay for postage! A letter writing campaign will *cost you nothing*.

Accelerated Cure Project has worked hard to grow our Repository sites nationwide, update and expand the Cure Map, enable scientific studies, and bring MS researchers together to collaborate on developing a cure. Now, the development team is looking to team up with *you* to make sure we get the funding to open the door to 300 Repository participants.

To join the 2009 Letter Writing Campaign, simply email Erin at erin-letter09@acceleratedcure.com

A Message from Carolyn Cronin, Chief Executive Officer



Thank you for your continued support of Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis.

Our aim in this newsletter is to introduce you to the many ways you can make a profound difference in **“opening doors to the cure.”**

Our vision for the next three years includes the following components: (1) building on the established success of our repository as an MS research resource, (2) adding a new cohort of subjects who are particularly valuable for research into the causes of MS, (3) expanding our sample provision capabilities by partnering with other organizations and collecting new types of samples, and (4) achieving the fundamental goal of the repository by analyzing the wealth of information in its database to determine the causes of MS.

For close to 8 years, with the support of people like you, we have made considerable benchmarks toward our mission. Real progress has been made, but we still have much to do.

Many of you may be aware that our founder, Art Mellor, will be taking on a different role within Accelerated Cure Project. He will retain his position, as a member of our board, but is moving on to pursue additional opportunities. As he says, “The most selfish thing I have ever done is to start the Accelerated Cure Project, and almost a decade later, the second most selfish is to consider doing something different.”

We need your support now more than ever to continue to expand the MS Repository. This expansion is not “growth for growth’s sake,” but instead it is driven by a need for larger sized studies that will produce statistically valid results.

Please take time to read this newsletter, learn about MS, and find new ways to support our mission.

Best regards,
Carolyn Cronin

Site Spotlight: Shepherd Center

By Sara Loud

This is the second in an occasional series highlighting each of Accelerated Cure Project’s collection sites. In this issue we shine the spotlight on the team at the MS Institute at the Shepherd Center located in Atlanta, Georgia (www.shepherd.org/patcare/ms.asp). Participation in the Accelerated Cure Project Repository at the Shepherd Center is led by principal investigator Dr. Ben Thrower and study coordinator Elizabeth Iski.



Marsha Hanson, Elizabeth Iski, Erica Sutton

Within minutes of starting a conversation with Shepherd Center study coordinator Elizabeth Iski about her role in building the Accelerated Cure Project Repository, you will find yourself touched by her abundant enthusiasm and joining in with her infectious laughter. Hailing originally from Peru where she worked as a medical assistant, Elizabeth has worked at Shepherd Center for 5 years and has been the study coordinator

for the Accelerated Cure Project collection site at Shepherd Center for more than 3½ years, enrolling Shepherd Center’s very first subject into the Repository in July 2006. Some 323 subjects later, Elizabeth’s excitement about and commitment to the Repository have not waned in the slightest. “Each day brings a new and welcome challenge. Not many people can say they truly love their job and can’t wait to come to work each day, but I do.”

Ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best rehabilitation hospitals in the country (www.usnews.com/directories/hospitals/index_html/specialty+REPHEHA) Shepherd Center specializes in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injuries, acquired brain injuries, multiple sclerosis, chronic pain, and other neurological conditions. The MS Institute at Shepherd Center, led by medical director Dr. Ben Thrower, offers comprehensive evaluations, diagnostics, rehabilitation services and treatment options through FDA-approved drugs and new clinical trials for people with MS and related diseases. The MS Institute also offers a wide range of supportive services to those with MS including psychological counseling, educational programs, vocational services, nutritional counseling and therapeutic recreation programs to address a wide variety of the needs often encountered by those with MS.

(continued on page 6)

Employee Profile



Name:
Erin Fitzgerald

Occupation:
Special Events
Coordinator

Current Residence:
Quincy, MA

Hometown:
Billerica, MA

Hobbies:
Going out to dinner with friends, traveling,
and watching the Red Sox.

Ideal vacation spot:
Any place with an ocean and a beach.

Favorite movie or book:
My Cousin Vinny. I've watched it so many
times I have memorized the lines.

Reason for joining Accelerated Cure Project:

To join a great team that is passionate about working to cure Multiple Sclerosis by determining its causes.

Last Job:

Events Manager at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center in Boston, MA.

Upcoming Events

More information can be found at <http://www.acceleratedcure.org/events/calendar.php>

Albuquerque, NM: On September 20th, join us for the inaugural Healing, Harmony, & Heart Jazz Concert featuring 7-time Grammy Award winning jazz legend Jon Hendricks and renowned concert pianist Awadagin Pratt.

Bay Area, CA: October 5th-11th we'll be teaming up with the Tyler Hamilton Foundation for MS Global 2009! 25 riders will embark on a multi-day cycling event in Northern California with US Pro Cycling Champion and Olympic gold medalist, Tyler Hamilton, as they raise funds to fight MS.

Boston, MA: Join us on October 17th at the Hyatt Boston for our inaugural "Opening Doors" Symposium and Recognition Gala! Researchers, clinicians, and industry leaders from around the world will gather during the day to attend a scientific symposium. The dazzling gala will include a VIP reception, dinner, auctions, and live entertainment, all while highlighting the accomplishments of our key supporters. Honorees include Eric Yaverbaum, Dr. Benjamin Greenberg, and Robert Luber.

Washington, DC: We have received 25 charity numbers for the October 25th Marine Corps Marathon. For your chance to run one of the most beautiful (and flattest) marathons in the country while raising funds for a great cause, email erin-MCM09@acceleratedcure.org

Arlington, MA: For its 7th year, Sing To Cure MS will be changing its name to Music to Cure MS in order to appeal to a larger audience. On October 25th, members of Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Boston, and other classical singers and musicians will come together to raise funds to cure MS.

Derry, NH: Save the date for the 3rd Annual Dance to Cure MS at Brookstone Events Center on November 7th! Enjoy a fabulous night of socializing, prizes, and dancing, but, most importantly, giving hope to those who have MS by raising money for Accelerated Cure Project.

Chicago, IL: On November 20th, join us for the Hello Stiletto Shoe Ball at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza, a fabulous evening for women and men, of footwear, fashion, and fun to benefit Accelerated Cure Project!

Waltham, MA: Mark your calendar for the 2009 Accelerated Cure Project Annual Event on November 21st. We will be returning to the Doubletree Guest Suites in Waltham to celebrate another year of great progress in accelerating the cure!

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are a precious resource! These generous folks have been giving their time to Accelerated Cure Project in recent months:

ADMINISTRATION

Jen Downing
Kelly Novak
Mike Ahern
Mike Rudzinsky
William Senne

BOSTON MARATHON 2009

Carol Rose
Dave Hanthorn
Doug Hull
Justin Obey
Mark Coggeshall
Michele Van Leer
Mike Grant
Phil Harrell
Scott MacLeod
Seth Matheson
Stephanie Mahoney
Zach Natale

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Leon Phelps
Marion Leeds Carroll
Pat Phelps

DANCE TO CURE MS 2009

Ann Cabot
Deb Dufault

FUNDRAISING

Ann Assarsson
Eileen Devereux
Jeff Shapiro
Sarah Nels
Tommy Gearhart

HELLO STILETTO SHOE BALL 2009 BOSTON

Amanda Viciano
Anne Valley and the Fashion Students of Lasell College
Dave Rudzinsky
Jennifer Sheehan
Kevin Nolan
Kristina Kozak
Marie Rudzinsky
Melissa O'Shea
Sandra Aussem
Shelley Hachman
Stephen Madero

HELLO STILETTO SHOE BALL 2009 CHICAGO

Melissa O'Shea
Sandra Aussem

HUNT TO CURE MS 2009

Gabe d'Annunzio
Jen Downing
Lisa Sargeant
Maggie Phelan
Matt Wilder
Meghan Cronin
Rebecca Petersen
Shannon Delaney
Steve Brown
Theresa Grenier

LET'S BAG MS

Debbie Mann
Maggie Wolf
Nancy Whitney
Susie Keller

MEDEIROS FAMILY FUNDRAISER 2009

Judy Medeiros
Nancy Medeiros

MS GLOBAL 2009

Bill Hamilton
Erik Schmidt
Sarah Nels

61st American Academy of Neurology Meeting

By Art Mellor

Each year, Hollie Schmidt, our VP of Scientific Operations, and Art Mellor, our Chief Technical Officer, attend a number of conferences featuring presentations on Multiple Sclerosis. One of the bigger events is the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) meeting. This year it was held in Seattle, WA at the end of April.

The meeting is a week-long event featuring classes, research presentations and posters, and a vendor exhibit hall. We've never taken any of the classes, so we can't say what that's like, but the other components work as follows:

- **Exhibit Hall:** Just like most trade shows, it is a big open area filled with exhibits from various organizations. Different size "booth" spaces are rented out for exorbitant fees (although nonprofits get a break). Companies providing equipment to neurologists, pharmaceutical companies, and nonprofits have demonstrations, materials on their offerings, and representatives from the company at their booth.

In past years we've had a booth at in the exhibit hall, but we decided the expense and effort were not worth the minimal exposure we were getting there. It has been more useful to arrange in-person meetings with specific individuals.

- **Poster Sessions:** One area at the conference center was filled with bulletin boards. At different times, researchers would be assigned specific locations to go post a large poster describing their work. If you are interested, you can go by and read about what they did, and usually someone from their project would be standing by the poster to answer questions. It's similar to a science fair.

- **Presentations:** Throughout the week there are hundreds of presentations by researchers on results they have obtained from their work. These presentations are split into "tracks" by topic - there were 1 or 2 tracks on MS each day - and feature 6 to 10 short talks (usually 10 or 15 minutes each) by different researchers. When there were 2 MS tracks going simultaneously, Hollie and Art tried to separate and attend one track each.

There are also a number of other activities such as dinners and informal get-togethers that happen while everyone is all in one place. At the end of every meeting, Hollie and Art write up their notes and publish them on our web site. You can see a detailed write-up of this year at msnews.acceleratedcure.org/node/3519 if you'd like all the details.

This year was not particularly exciting from the standpoint of new findings. There were a lot of updates of continuing trials with similar results to what had been reported previously. What Hollie and Art found interesting this year were the following:

- **Natalizumab in Patients with Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis: Updated Utilization and Safety Results Including TOUCH and TYGRIS**

This was a presentation of data from Biogen Idec on the latest Tysabri safety data.

Current Tysabri usage:

- 52,000 people on Tysabri (27,700 in the US)
- 25,000 on Tysabri for 12 months or more
- 14,400 for 18 months or more
- 6,800 for 24 months or more

There have been 6 reported PML cases post-marketing (since drug

trials concluded). Of these, 5 were in the EU and 1 in the US. These people had been on Tysabri between 12 and 31 months. The rate of PML was 1 in 1,000 in the trial, and post-marketing it is 1.2 in 10,000.

Of the 6 cases, there has been only 1 fatality. They have treated the PML with plasma exchange and immunoabsorption to remove the Tysabri from the blood stream and with mefloquine to attack the JC Virus responsible for the PML.

The TYGRIS observational study monitoring adverse events has 5,111 patients enrolled and there has been a 4% rate of Serious Adverse Events with a profile no different than that seen in the original trials.

- **Efficacy and Safety of Rituximab in Patients with Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS): Results of a Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Multicenter Trial**

Rituximab is a monoclonal antibody (mAb) that depletes CD20+ B-cells. Its efficacy has been shown in RRMS, so this study looked at what it does in PPMS (for which there are no treatments).

This trial had 439 subjects with 292 on drug and 147 on placebo. 85% of the participants completed the trial which went on for 96 weeks and involved 4 infusions. They tracked lesion load, brain volume, and time to confirmed progression.

Serious Adverse Events (SAEs) that appeared drug related were largely infusion reactions and infections.

Overall, there was a slight, but not statistically significant, time to progression benefit, a reduction in T2 lesions, and no difference in brain volume change. So basically the drug

did not seem to help when the entire group was examined.

However, in people less than 50 years old who had enhancing lesions, those who were on rituximab had a much lower risk of progression than those on placebo (24% vs. 51%). Interestingly, analyzing based on disease duration instead of age did not show the same difference between drug and placebo. So there may be hope for treating PPMS, at least in younger people with enhancing lesions.

- Oral Fingolimod (FTY720) Versus Interferon Beta-1a in Relapsing Remitting Multiple Sclerosis: Results from a Phase III Study (TRANSFORMS)

This trial compared fingolimod (FTY720) from Novartis to Avonex from Biogen Idec. This study involved 1292 subjects at 172 centers in 18 countries and looked at annualized relapse rate (ARR) over 12 months in people who took .5mg/day FTY vs. 1.25mg/day FTY vs. 1/wk Avonex.

The .5mg group saw a 52% reduction in ARR vs Avonex and the 1.25mg group saw a 38% reduction vs. Avonex. 80% of FTY subjects were relapse free at the end of one year vs. 60% on Avonex. They also saw fewer new or enlarged lesions in the FTY group vs. Avonex. A non-significant trend toward lower progression was also seen in the FTY group.

SAE levels were notably higher in the 1.25mg FTY group, including 2 herpesvirus infection related deaths, and more people in the high-dose group dropped out. The cancer rate in the FTY groups was also notably higher, although the absolute numbers were still low. This is probably what people will be watching as more people get FTY.

One audience member noted that the trial had been open to people who had been on an MS treatment in the past, and that some of these had been on Avonex. He asked what percentage of subjects in this trial had developed neutralizing antibodies to Avonex. The presenter didn't know, nor did he know how many subjects had had disease activity while on Avonex. It seems like an important topic to know something about, because if your control arm includes people who

previously didn't do well on the control drug, that's going to bias the results of the trial in favor of the study drug and isn't a fair test.

- Results from the CLARITY Study: a Phase III, Randomized, Double-Blind Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Oral Cladribine in Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)

Dr. Giovannoni presented results from the CLARITY study of cladribine (an oral anti-cancer drug from EMD Serono being tested in MS). This was a 96-week, placebo-controlled study with 1,326 subjects. The treatment arms included (1) placebo, (2) 4 courses of cladribine (total 3.5 mg/kg), and (3) 6 courses of cladribine (total 5.25 mg/kg). A course of cladribine consisted of 1-2 tablets per day for 4-5 consecutive days for 2-4 consecutive months each year. Around 90% of subjects in each group completed the study, and dropouts due to adverse events were low.

Here are the results: A ~55% reduction in annualized relapse rate was seen in the cladribine groups vs. placebo (relapse rates were 0.14 or 0.15 vs. 0.33 in placebo). 80% of the cladribine recipients were relapse-free compared with 60% of the placebo subjects. There was a 31-33% relative reduction in sustained progression and a 75-85% relative reduction in MRI lesions. There were two deaths in each arm and five malignancies in the cladribine arms vs. none in the placebo arm. These malignancies occurred in different organ systems. Very low levels of immune cells (lymphopenia and leukopenia) were seen in some cladribine recipients, although this was expected since the drug targets immune cells.

So, this looks like another interesting oral drug with an easy dosing schedule and potential benefits in MS, but potentially severe side effects to go with it. People with MS will have a lot to consider in a few years assuming several of these new drugs are approved to treat the disease.

(continued on page 7)

VOLUNTEERS (cont.)

NEW MEXICO JAZZ CONCERT 2009

Eileen Devereux
Tommy Gearhart

RECOGNITION DINNER 2009

Carolyn Potts
David Blohm
Gabe d'Annunzio
Jill McGaffigan
Linda Kanner
Lori Hannay
Mary Blohm
Phyllis Baron
Randi Southwick
Steven Kanner

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

Dave Baker
Peter Schmidt

WALK TO ACCELERATE THE CURE 2009

Debbie Mann
Jack Ankenbauer
Linda Como

WELLNESS RESOLUTION 2009

Ama Allara
Cher Kore

OTHER

Cultivation Events 2009 - Sarah Nels
MS Scholarships 2009 - Rick Szczepanski
Greater Cincinnati Cure Project Canine Happy Hour 2009 - Debbie Mann
Music to Cure MS 2009 - Marion Leeds Carroll
Volunteer Engagement/Recognition Program - Debbie Urbanik
YPAC - Kevin Nolan

CONTRIBUTED GOODS & SERVICES

AirTran Airways
Anonymous
Arena Coaching
Artemis Woman
Barneys New York
Beverly Davidson
Big City Restaurant
Bina Osteria
Body Wise Therapeutic Massage
Cabot Creamery
California Closets
Clockwork Design Group, Inc
Cordani
Cosmosis
CVS Caremark
District Restaurant & Lounge
DSW
Emerald Necklace Martial Arts & Yoga
EMS
Euphoria Esthetics
Faccia Bella
Fuze Beverages
Genevieve Boston
Green & Black's Chocolate
Harpoon Brewery
Head of the Charles Regatta
Jeff Lewitzky
Kameleon Healing Aromatherapy
Lancome
LEGWORK Video LLC
Leokadia
Lily Artist Management
Lucky's Lounge
Macy's
Mail Perfect, Inc.
Mark Allara
Milano Salon
Motives by Loren Ridinger
Red Spot Printing
RIS Paper
Rock City Body
Sarra
Shear Color Printing
ShoeBuy.com Inc.

Site Spotlight: Shepherd Center

(continued from page 2)

Clinical research is at the forefront of the work done at the MS Institute in an effort to provide novel treatments faster to those who need them. As a leader in the management of the most current medications, multi-drug regimes and MS clinical drug trials, there is a wide range of research projects currently underway at the institute. The research page of the MS Institute's web site (www.shepherd.org/research/MSResearch.asp) details three trials that are currently recruiting (in addition to the Accelerated Cure Project Repository) with more than a dozen other studies on-going. The commitment to clinical research, including the work associated with the Accelerated Cure Project Repository, reflects the dedication to advancing research, providing state-of-the-art treatments, and improving quality of life that is inherent within the MS Institute at Shepherd Center.

In addition to Elizabeth and Dr. Thrower, the clinical trials team at the MS Institute is 11 strong, including Ismari Clesson (Director of Clinical Trials), Marsha Hanson (Lead Coordinator of MS Projects), Erica Sutton (Research Specialist) and Lynzee Head (Research Coordinator). Each plays a key role in making the collection site for the Repository such a success at Shepherd Center.

As the study coordinator, Elizabeth is responsible for subject enrollment, from the initial recruiting, through the blood draw, extensive interview, medical records review, and any follow-up that must be done. Elizabeth approaches each potential subject with warmth and understanding, with a keen ability to communicate the important role that participants are playing in accelerating research into the causes of MS. "The Accelerated Cure Project Repository allows me to make a difference in the lives of those we serve," says Elizabeth. "I tell them, with their participation they are helping to further the science to find better treatments, early diagnostic tools, and, yes, a cure."

It's true that every new participant in the Repository is making a lasting difference in the way that research into MS is conducted. So, too, are all of the people at the MS centers, like the MS Institute at Shepherd Center, who work at our collection sites. Their dedication to the Accelerated Cure Project Repository and their hard work is noticed and appreciated by all of us at Accelerated Cure Project, and by participants too. A recent participant described her Repository participation and interaction with Elizabeth as such, "Elizabeth treated me and my son like royalty. It was like a wonderful two hour visit with an old friend."

To learn more about participating in the Accelerated Cure Project Repository at the MS Institute at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, please contact Elizabeth Iski via email at acp-study-shepherd0807@acceleratedcure.org or at 404-350-3116. To learn more about participating at a different collection site or for general questions, please contact Accelerated Cure Project's Repository director, Sara Loud, at 781-487-0032 or via email at acp-study-director0807@acceleratedcure.org

Organization Profile: Myelin Repair Foundation

By Peggy Tierney, Program Coordinator

The Myelin Repair Foundation (MRF) is an innovative medical research organization that supports and directs a collaborative team of scientists with the goal of developing a myelin repair treatment for multiple sclerosis (MS). Founded in 2004, the MRF projected an ambitious goal of partnering with a commercial entity to develop our first myelin repair drug target within five years. Today, we are en route to completing that goal.

Our founder Scott Johnson was diagnosed with MS when he was 20 years old. He was told that he shouldn't expect a cure for thirty years. Today, it's likely that newly-diagnosed patients face the same odds. MRF was created to change those odds in patients' favor.

The Myelin Repair Foundation uses the Accelerated Research Collaboration (ARC) model to speed the process of basic research and bridge the "Valley of Death" that separates the worlds of academic and pharmaceutical research; bringing new treatments to patients in a fraction of the time. By partnering with commercial drug developers alongside its team of academic scientists, the MRF lays down the tracks for moving lifesaving science smoothly from one world to the next.

And our innovation is paying off. Today, the MRF has made significant progress including the creation of 24 new research tools and 19 potential drug targets, and engaging in multi-level negotiations with select biotech companies to license our discoveries; all are essential activities to our goal of creating a novel myelin repair therapeutic for patients. And MRF will be there to manage the entire process, every step of the way.

To learn more about the MRF and its ARC model, visit <http://www.myelinrepair.org>

Repository Opens Ninth Site

Provides Samples and Data in Support of New Research Studies

Folks in the Denver, Colorado area now have an Accelerated Cure Project repository collection site in their midst! We are delighted to announce the opening of the new collection site at the Rocky Mountain MS Center at Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado, led by principal investigator Dr. Timothy Vollmer. Funding for the start-up and operational costs for this site has been generously provided by the Tyler Hamilton Foundation (www.tylerhamilton.com), with matching funds provided by the Water Cove Charitable Foundation. If you are interested in participating in the repository at this location, don't hesitate to call study coordinator Sydni Edwards at 303-724-2197 to learn more.

We also continue to enroll new subjects at all of our collection sites, with samples from 1,581 subjects collected to date. To learn more about participating in the repository, call Accelerated Cure Project's repository director, Sara Loud, at 781-487-0032, or visit the repository section of our web site at www.acceleratedcure.org/repository

While samples continue to come into the repository through increased enrollment, they also continue to be distributed in support of research into MS, TM, NMO, ADEM, and ON. We have now provided samples and data to nearly 20 research studies! Recent sample distributions include the distribution of 987 samples to Dr. Julius Birnbaum of Johns Hopkins in support of his research related to neurodegeneration in people with secondary progressive MS. We also have recently distributed samples from 10 subjects with NMO, along with 5 controls, to Dr. Alan Verkman at UCSF who is investigating the role the antibody NMO IgG may play in cell functions. You can learn more about the research being supported by the Accelerated Cure Project repository samples and data by visiting www.acceleratedcure.org/repository/research.php

61st American Academy of Neurology Meeting

(continued from page 5)

- The Immunomodulator Fingolimod (FTY720) Increases Myelin Production Following Demyelination of Organotypic Cerebellar Slices

MS drug candidate FTY720 is known to sequester immune cells in lymph nodes, but it also appears to affect cells in the central nervous system. This study sought to learn more about its CNS effects. Researchers used cultures of brain tissue from newborn mice and added FTY720 — no effect was seen under this control condition. They then induced demyelination with lysolecithin in these cultures. Untreated cultures showed signs of partial remyelination, but cultures treated with FTY720 showed lots more remyelination.

The researchers also saw formation of nodes of Ranvier, indicating restoration of function. The drug also induced oligodendrocytes and oligodendrocyte precursor cells to extend processes ("arms"). The number of microglia and astrocytes in treated cultures was also much greater than was present initially after demyelination. Next steps for this group include using an in vivo model of demyelination and determining whether FTY720 affects remyelination through a direct effect on oligodendrocytes, or indirectly via microglia.

VOLUNTEERS (cont.)

Slade's Bar & Grill
Softt Shoe Company
Staples
The Briar Group
The Capital Grille
The Ritz-Carlton
The Total Wellness Clinic
Vermont Soapworks
W.J.Deutsch & Sons LTD.
Yelp.com

Recent Events:

Detailed information about all of our recent and upcoming events can be found on our web site at <http://www.acceleratedcure.org/events>



Melissa O'Shea, Amanda Viciano, and Sandra Aussem, all from Hello Stiletto, looked stunning at the Glow and Behold Enchanted Winter Ball

March 6, Boston, MA: The Glow and Behold Enchanted Winter Ball was a great success, raising \$15,000. Thank you Hello Stiletto Shoe Club, Genevieve Boston, and Kristina Kozak for your hard work!

April 20, Boston, MA: Our 2009 Boston Marathon Team worked extremely hard to fundraise and train. We had 13 dedicated runners this year who teamed up to raise almost \$60,000!

April 26, Mountain View, CA: Ann Assarsson, soprano, and Steven Moellering, piano, held Songs of Hope, a spring vocal and piano recital to raise funds for the fight against MS.

May 9, Somerville, MA: The Medeiros Family 7th Annual Sports Scholarship and Multiple Sclerosis Research Fundraiser Party in loving memory of Edmund Medeiros raised nearly \$3,000.

May 9, Cincinnati, OH: Teams "Kick MS for Karen" and "Marching for Mann" together raised over \$4,000 at the Walk to Accelerate the Cure.



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Waltham, MA 02451

Tel: 781-487-0008
Fax: 781-487-0009

www.acceleratedcure.org
newsletter@acceleratedcure.org

Have you moved?
Changed your email
address? Let us know!
Send changes in
contact information to
newsletter@acceleratedcure.org
or give us a call at
781-487-0008.

Change Service Requested

Accelerated Cure Project T-Shirt Pictures



Bob in Bermuda on
completion of a 10K



Phyllis in Orlando, FL



Katie, Isabel, Hollie, Tom,
Nicky, Susie, and Helen in
Shanghai



Kasey on the Cape in MA

ABOUT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic demyelinating disorder of the central nervous system that often results in severe disability including the inability to walk, blindness, cognitive dysfunction, extreme fatigue and other serious effects. MS affects over 400,000 people in the US and 2 million individuals worldwide. The disorder occurs twice as often in women as in men. The cause is not known and there is no known cure.

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Have you moved? Changed your email address?

Let us know! Send changes in contact information to newsletter09@acceleratedcure.org or call 781-487-0008.

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